

notes

A Publication for the Residents of Phoenix

February 2004

Transit begins safety awareness effort

Valley Metro riders and employees in Phoenix are the eyes and ears of a new national public awareness effort aimed at maintaining a safe transit environment.

The Phoenix Public Transit Department is the first in the country to take part in the Federal Transit Administration's Transit Watch program that urges bus passengers, workers and others to watch for suspicious activities in and around the transit system.

Brochures, signs and other materials are available throughout the system detailing how to identify suspicious behavior, activities and packages, what to do in the event of a



transit emergency or evacuation, emergency telephone numbers and contacts, and overall emergency

preparedness tips for individuals and families.

The program, which the FTA hopes to see spread across the country, was patterned after the successful Neighborhood Block Watch program that helps keep neighborhoods safe by getting people in the area involved.

For additional information about the Transit Watch program visit valleymetro.org or call 602-253-5000.

Cast your vote for new Point of Pride

Here's your opportunity to vote for the newest Phoenix Point of Pride.

The Phoenix Pride Commission has selected 10 finalists from more than 70 sites that were nominated for possible designation as a Point of Pride.

Now it's your turn to help select the winner.



On the ballot are: Arizona Falls, Arizona Science Center, Bank One Ballpark, Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Burton Barr Central Library, Eastlake Park, Japanese Friendship Garden, Murphy Bridle Path, Sky Harbor International Airport and Thomas Pappas School.

You may vote through March 12, either online by visiting pride.azcentral.com or by mail by sending one nomination per postcard to City of Phoenix PIO (MC), 200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85003. Your name and address must appear on both the online and postcard ballots, and only one vote per person may be made for each site.

For more information, call 602-452-6259.



***Northwest side gets new
fire station*** – Fire Department mascot Firepal was a big hit at the recent opening ceremonies of the city's 49th fire station. The new station at 20225 N. 35th Ave., just north of Loop 101, enhances the department's ability to respond to fires and medical emergencies on the city's rapidly growing northwest side. It houses three fire trucks and a rescue vehicle.

Seven honored for promoting justice

Seven Phoenix residents have been honored for their commitment to creating a compassionate and socially just community.

Shirley Johnson, principal of Augustus Shaw Elementary School, received the Calvin C. Goode 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award, while the others received Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream awards.

The Goode award, named for former City Councilman Calvin C. Goode, recognizes an individual who has made Phoenix a better place to live through the promotion of social and economic justice.



Shirley Johnson

The other winners were: George Dean, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Urban League; Susan Gerard, healthcare advisor to Gov. Janet Napolitano; Faye Gray, Hermoso Community Association; Luz Sarmina-Gutierrez, president and CEO, Valle del Sol Inc.; Gail Q. Knight, Community Excellence Project; and Earl Nelson, a Phoenix Police detective.

For more information about the awards, which were made by the Arizona Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee and the Phoenix Human Relations Commission, call 602-261-8242/voice or 602-534-1557/TTY.

Beware of diversion burglars

Burglars posing as city workers continue to work the city.

Phoenix police warn that they usually knock on doors, say they are city employees and then have an accomplice steal your valuables after they gain access to your home.

For example, some pose as Water Services representatives and say they need to check bathroom pipes to analyze a neighborhood problem. While you're with the imposter a second person will sneak in and take valuables from other parts of the house.

Water Services employees of the city usually drive city vehicles with the Phoenix logo, display badges and wear uniforms. And, they never enter your house unless you have requested a visit.

If you are suspicious of someone who claims to be a city worker, call the city at 602-262-6011 or Water Services at 602-262-6251. Also, if you suspect a scam but have not been victimized, call the police at 602-262-6141.

Solid waste fee increases

Effective March 1, the monthly basic solid waste fee will increase by \$1.50 to \$22.20. Approved by the City Council in January, the increase is necessary to keep up with growth, inflation, the development of a new landfill and transfer station, and increased costs for long hauling of solid waste. For more information, call 602-262-7251.

City offers tax credit help

Last year, thousands of Phoenix residents who were eligible for a federal Earned Income Tax Credit, failed to claim their money.

The city is working with the Internal Revenue Service to assist families and individuals to determine if they are eligible, offer free tax preparation assistance and provide a variety of asset-building services to guide residents through the process.

Under federal tax laws, workers who earned less than \$35,000 last year may qualify for as much as \$4,000.

For more information and to determine eligibility, call 602-263-8856.

Hazardous waste collections planned

Phoenix residents can dispose of household hazardous waste and other items at BOPA collections 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 18 - 20 at Ahwatukee Recreation Center, 5001 E. Cheyenne Drive, and April 8 - 10 at North Phoenix Baptist Church, Bethany Home Road and Central Avenue.

In addition to batteries, oil, paint and antifreeze, the event will accept five automobile or light truck tires per resident, computers and household appliances, including refrigerators, stoves, evaporative coolers, air conditioners, washers, dryers and water heaters.

Commercial loads will not be accepted.

The city also will pick up household appliances and computers at your home for a \$10 fee. Call to schedule a collection. For information, call 602-262-7251, send e-mail to pwserv@phoenix.gov or visit phoenix.gov/GARBAGE.

Chorus to hold auditions

The Phoenix Children's Chorus will hold auditions for boys and girls from second grade through high school in March and April for the season beginning in August. Call 602-534-3788 to make an audition appointment. For more information, visit www.phxchildrenschorus.org.

Library hosts Holocaust Museum exhibition

The Phoenix Public Library beginning next month will host a national touring exhibition produced by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

"Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933 - 1945," which includes photos, reproductions of documents and personal narratives, will be on display March 13 to April 9 at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.

The core of this first exhibition focuses on the police terror leading to the arrest of 100,000 homosexual men, 50,000 of whom were convicted and imprisoned during the Nazi period under a German law that outlawed homosexuality.

To compliment the exhibition, the library will be hosting a series of public programs entitled Prejudice to Pride. The exhibit and programs are funded by Wells Fargo.

For more information about the exhibition or the public programs, call 602-262-4636 or visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org/holocaustexhibit.

Arizona artists display works

A diverse collection of eight temporary public art projects by Arizona artists will enliven the downtown area beginning March 5.

The projects, which will be on display in conjunction with the Artlink's Art Detour, are part of the city's Office of Arts and Culture's Artist's Initiative program, which allows emerging Arizona artists to experience the process of making public art.

The eight projects, which range from video and computer projections to conceptual art, will be displayed throughout downtown Phoenix for two days to three months, depending upon the scope and type of each project.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/ARTS or call 602-262-4637 (voice) or 602-534-5500/TTY.

Workshops aid neighborhood leaders

The Neighborhood Services Department over the next several months will host a series of free workshops for neighborhood leaders that are designed to build vibrant neighborhoods through partnerships.

Topics range from graffiti removal to applying for grants.

To register, call 602-534-8444.

Upcoming workshops are: Planning and Zoning, 6 - 8 p.m., March 10, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; Graffiti Paint Sprayer Training, 8 - 10 a.m., March 13, 64 N. 48th Ave.; Landlord/Tenant Workshop, 6 - 9 p.m., March 18, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; Grant Writing and Fund Raising, 6 - 8 p.m., March 25, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; and Code Enforcement Basics, 9 a.m. - noon, April 17, Desert West Community Center, 6501 W. Virginia Ave.

Also: How to Access City Hall, 6 - 8 p.m., April 21, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; Landlord/Tenant, 6 - 9 p.m., April 22, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; How to Design a Neighborhood Newsletter, 6 - 9 p.m., April 28, Maricopa Skills Center, 1245 E. Buckeye Road; Advanced Code Enforcement, 9 a.m. - noon, May 1, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; Landlord/Tenant, 6 - 9 p.m., May 13, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; Urban Design, 6 - 8 p.m., June 10, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.; and Landlord/Tenant, 6 - 9 p.m., June 17, assembly room A, City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.

Women's Day luncheon March 16

Laura L. Liswood, secretary general of the Council of Women World Leaders, an organization composed of women government leaders, will deliver the keynote address at the 13th annual International Women's Day luncheon, noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, at the Phoenix Civic Plaza Ballroom, Third and Jefferson streets.



Laura L. Liswood

"Uniting Women for Global Leadership" is the theme of the luncheon hosted by the city of Phoenix, the Phoenix Women's Commission and the International Women's Day Steering Committee.

Tickets are \$50 for general admission and \$35 for students and senior citizens and are available at the Phoenix Civic Plaza box office beginning Feb. 9. Corporate table reservations also are available.

The proceeds benefit the International Women's Day Scholarship Fund, which provides educational scholarships to women in need. For more information, call 602-261-8242 or visit phoenix.gov/PHXWOMEN/luncheon.html.

Expo offers job opportunities

More than 200 employers will be on hand seeking to fill entry- to professional-level jobs at the 11th annual Career Expo 2004, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, at the Arizona State Fair Grounds, Exhibition Building, 1826 W. McDowell Road.

Those who attend the free event will have access to the state's registration job service program and to computers for online job searches. Attendees should dress for success and bring a résumé.

Employers can participate for \$250, which includes an information breakfast seminar, lunch and a 10' x 10' booth. Registration for employers is available at azjobfair.com.

For more information, call 602-307-9016, extension #1621 or #1622.

Workshop discusses worker rights

Learn about your rights and responsibilities as an employer, employee or consumer at the Fair Employment Workshop 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at Phoenix City Hall, assembly rooms A and B, 200 W. Washington St.

The free workshop sponsored by the city of Phoenix Equal Opportunity Department will discuss employment discrimination and the right for people to compete for any job for which they qualify and work in an environment that is free from discrimination.

Call 602-262-7486/voice or 602-534-1557/TTY to register.

Annual street festival gears up for March

Phoenix's largest street festival is moving to March this year.

The 14th annual "Sunday on Central presented by APS" celebration will take to the streets March 21.

The free family-oriented fete, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Central Avenue from Virginia Avenue to Osborn Road, will feature street-level performers, multiple stages of entertainment, food and crafts activities for kids.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Phoenix Pride Commission produce Sunday on Central.

Bilsten is new vice mayor

District 3 Councilwoman Peggy Bilsten has been selected by the City Council to serve as the 2004 vice mayor.

A member of the council for 10 years, it marks the second time she has held the position.



Peggy Bilsten

Bilsten was appointed to the City Council in April 1994 to fill a vacancy created when a council member resigned. She later won a special election to retain the seat and since then has been re-elected three times.

She chairs the City Council Transportation, Aviation, Transit and Technology Subcommittee and serves on the Smart Growth and Environment and the Education, Culture and Genomics subcommittees.

While serving on the council, she spearheaded the Transit 2000 initiative and helped establish the Graffiti Hotline. She also has been active in domestic violence issues as chair of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women and the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence.

notes

Published by the City of Phoenix
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Peggy Bilsten, Vice Mayor	
& District 3	602-262-7441
Dave Siebert, District 1	602-262-7444
Peggy Neely, District 2	602-262-7445
Tom Simplot, District 4	602-262-7447
Claude Mattox, District 5	602-262-7446
Greg Stanton, District 6	602-262-7492
Doug Lingner, District 7	602-262-7492
Michael Johnson, District 8	602-262-7493
Garbage/Trash Service	602-262-7251
Landfill/Disposal Information	602-262-7251
Recycling	602-262-7251
Water/Wastewater	602-262-6251

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